

# Leicestershire Rugby Union - AGR Rugby Tag (U7-U8) Festival Rules and Requirements – 2016/2017

UPDATED AND REVISED – JANUARY 2017

All reference to RFU Regulation 15 Age Grade Rugby includes the supplementary information contained within Guidelines for RFU Regulation 15 – Age Grade Rugby and U7 & U8 Rules of Play and these documents should be taken together.

**New Rules for the LRU County Festival to take into consideration the new RFU AGR guidelines, This Festival is arranged by the LRU to showcase the core values of the sport. All participating players will be given a medal and certificate.**

## 1) Organisation and Management of the Festival

- a) The Leicestershire Rugby Union (LRU) will organise a Festival for age groups U7–U8 administered by the LRU AGR Festival Secretary.
- b) All matches shall be played under the RFU Regulation 15 – Age Grade Rugby, RFU Regulation 15 – Age Grade Rugby Guidelines and RFU Regulation 15 – Age Grade Rugby and the RFU U7 & U8 New Rules of Play and will comply with the rules of the Tag Festival as set out by the LRU AGR Festival Secretary-
- c) Information regarding the organisation and progress of the LRU Tag Festival will be produced at regular intervals during the Season and will be published on the LRU web site at [www.leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk](http://www.leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk)
- d) The format of the Tournament will be set annually in accordance with the number of entries received.
- e) The Date of the festival will be the **last Sunday in April each year**, unless it clashes with any school/public holiday, and then will be held on a Sunday agreed with the Organiser and Host Club at the earliest point.

## 2) Protests, Disputes and Appeals

- a) Any matters in dispute or any perceived breach of these rules is to be reported IN WRITING to the LRU AGR Festival Secretary within 48 hours of the alleged incident. ([festivals@leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk](mailto:festivals@leicestershirerugbyunion.co.uk))
- b) The LRU AGR Festival Secretary has the power to exclude any club or team from the LRU Tag Tournament organised by the LRU if that club or team has not complied with the rules of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) or has not played within the spirit and ethos of the RFU Regulation 15 – Age Grade Rugby.
- c) Initial decisions and interpretations on all matters regarding the organisation and management of the LRU Tag Tournament will be made by the LRU AGR Festival Secretary.
- d) There will be an initial informal right of appeal against any such decision to the Chairman of the LRU AGR Section and a further right of formal appeal against his/her rulings to the Chair of the LRU CBRDP. Any such appeals must be lodged IN WRITING by the appellant club's AGR Section Chair at the earliest opportunity and at the latest within 7 days of being notified of any such decision. ([festivals@leicestershirrugbyunion.co.uk](mailto:festivals@leicestershirrugbyunion.co.uk))

## 3) Membership and Eligibility of Clubs

- a) The LRU Tag Festival is open to any club in membership of the LRU and the Rugby Football Union - entries are restricted to two teams per club.
- b) The AGR Festivals Committee may authorise participation by a club in membership of another Constituent Body Rugby Union and the Rugby Football Union.
- c) It is the intention of the LRU to provide competitive rugby for as many players as possible. To this end, a club may enter 'late' as long as the LRU Tag Festival can be adjusted without disproportionate consequences and/or disruption.

## 4) Registration and Eligibility of Players

- a) All players must be registered with and have paid the appropriate Membership fee to the Club they are representing and also they **MUST** be registered on the RFU Rugby First AGR Registration database and have been allocated a valid RFU Player Registration number at least five days prior to the day of the Festival. On the day of the Tournament, all players must hold "Active" status on the RFU Rugby GMS AGR Registration database.

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- b) The LRU Tag Festival is strictly an Age Grade specific event and all players taking part must be in a team based upon the chronological age of the players, as defined in RFU Regulation 15. Failure to comply will be classified as a 'registration offence' and may be subject to the sanction described in section 4e below.
- c) Player's RFU AGR Registration cards or equivalent must be available on the day of the Festival for inspection, if requested by a member of the LRU AGR Committee, by a nominated representative of the LRU AGR Committee or by a team coach/manager from an opposition team - failure to produce the requested registration cards may mean that the particular player will be prevented from playing in the Festival.
- d) Joint club entries are permitted to allow clubs at a particular age group to jointly raise a team. The players of each club must be registered for their respective club and also be registered with the RFU Rugby GMS AGR Registration database as "active" players.
- e) Any team found to be in breach of registration rules may be excluded from the LRU Tag Festival.

### **5) Entry Requirements and Dates of Rounds**

- a) The closing date for entries to the LRU Tag Festival will be the date specified on the entry form in order that entries can be finalised. The initial draw for the LRU Tag Festival will be made well in advance of the LRU Tag Festival - there will be a separate draw for each age group– entry forms must be returned to the LRU AGR Festival Secretary before the specified closing date specified on the Entry Form. Maximum number of entries to be 24 teams per age group. If more than 24 teams submit entry applications in either age group, the LRU will reduce the numbers to 24 teams by means of a random select draw of those clubs who have entered 2 teams.
- b) The LRU AGR Festival Secretary will fix the date of the LRU Tag Festival and will publish this alongside the LRU Festival dates (shortly after the RFU structured season is published). The Festival will take place on a single day and will involve an initial group games followed by 3 randomly picked games, If there is a late entry to the Festival, the schedule will be adjusted accordingly and clubs will be notified - a late entry will only be permitted if the Festival can be adjusted without disproportionate consequences and/or disruption and the number of original entries is less than 24 teams.

### **6) Entry Fees and Deposits**

- a) Entry to the Festival is acceptance of the following terms and conditions.
- b) Each Club will be invoiced for each age group entered at the end of the season.
- c) Initial decisions on the forfeit of deposits will be made by the LRU AGR Festivals Secretary. There will be an initial right of appeal against any such decision to the Chairman of the LRU AGR Section and a further right of appeal against his/her ruling to the Chair of the LRU AGR Chairman. Any such appeals must be lodged IN WRITING by the AGR Section Chair at the earliest opportunity and at the latest within 7 days of being notified of a lost deposit.

### **7) Tournament Format**

- a) The Festival will take place on a single day and will involve an initial group stage followed by 3 randomly picked games
- b) It should be noted that all games should be stopped as soon as there is a difference of 6 tries scored (as specified in RFU Regulation 15).

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### **8) Festival Responsibilities – Tag Festival Day**

- a) Responsibility for organising the Tag Festival will sit with the LRU AGR Festivals team working in partnership with the host club.
- b) All teams **MUST** submit a team sheet on the day of the tournament to the LRU Festivals Team. The checking of player eligibility may not be possible on the Tag Tournament Day and the LRU Festivals Secretary will undertake a thorough checking of the submitted teams' sheets subsequent to the Tag Festival Day.  
The subsequent checking undertaken by the LRU AGR Festival Secretary will check the Teams Sheets to verify that all players entered onto the team sheet hold a valid RFU AGR Registration Player Number and are defined within the RFU AGR Registration database as being "Active". Players must be registered with the RFU AGR Registration scheme at least five days prior to the Tag Festival) Should this subsequent checking demonstrate that ineligible players have been included on the team sheet, this may result in the withholding of the team deposit as in 6c above.
- c) With regard to player eligibility, challenges regarding the eligibility of any player on the day e.g. on the grounds of age, must be made before the start of any game and if that team is unable to provide definitive proof of age for that player he/she must be withdrawn for the rest of the festival.
- d) The host club must ensure that appropriate first aid facilities are provided.
- e) With regard to any disputes arising on the day, the LRU AGR Festivals Secretary will be the final arbiter – the normal procedure will apply to raise a dispute after the festival.

### **9) Squad size, Player numbers and Match durations**

- a) The squad size for Under 7s is 7 with a maximum team of 4 players in accordance with the RFU U7 "New Rules of Play".
- b) The squad size for Under 8s is 10 with a maximum team of 6 players in accordance with the RFU U8 "Rules of Play".
- c) The duration for Under 7 and Under 8 matches is 5 minutes per half. No extra time can be played in any circumstance except that added for "injury time".

### **10) Venues**

- a) All pitches used in the Tag Festival will be roped off with no access onto the playing area except for the participating players and the match official. A club official may be allowed inside the ropes as a 'sponge person'.
- b) Clubs are responsible for the behaviour of spectators and team coaches and in the event of serious misbehaviour, clubs may be removed from the Festival.

### **11) Referees**

- a) All clubs will be required to provide a Tag referee for the matches indicated in the programme / running order and in line with RFU guidelines, these referees must have attended an appropriate referee training course dealing with the Rules of Tag Rugby.

### **12) Kit**

- a) In the event of Clubs having similar coloured playing kit, the team listed on the left of the running order shall change its colours (often best achieved by turning existing shirts inside out).
- b) All shirts will be tucked into the top of shorts/tracksuit bottoms at all times.

**Dave Eabry**  
**LRU AGR Festivals Secretary**  
**January 2017**

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